

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of June 1, 2004. A petition for a three-month extension of time is enclosed herewith.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 16-18, 21-22, 24, 31 and 47 have been amended. Claims 32-46 and 48-62 have been withdrawn. Claims 6 and 23 are canceled. Claims 19-20 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 1-5, 7-22, 24-31, 47 and 63 are again presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 10, 12, 25-26, 30-31, 47 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,984,494 ("*Chapman*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As amended, independent claims 1 and 31 each require that the optical unit comprise "a transparent, molded body having first and second opposing faces, the first and second opposing faces each including at least one of refractive optics, diffractive optics and reflective optics, the optical unit being adapted to collect the light emitted from the LEDs and propagate fractions of the collected light to provide a warning signal in accordance with a predetermined non-uniform angular distribution that varies in intensity over a range of angles based on the" optics. Independent claim 47 includes similar limitations.

Chapman is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 5,685,637, the equivalent of which is discussed in numbered paragraphs 0013-14 of the instant application. *Chapman* discloses a "Dual Spectrum Illumination System" that includes two independent optical emitters, a halogen bulb that "provides

a high intensity visible beam" and a ring of LEDs that can provide infrared illumination for cover operations. (See Abstract.) The LEDs may be "aligned with a plano-convex lens 34." (Col. 4, line 67.) *Chapman* also states in passing that "[a]n optical system with lenses to shape the LED illumination may also be used to achieve specific intensity profiles." (Col. 5, lns. 60-62.) Furthermore, the lenses 34 (as well as the lenses 134) are individually mounted only on one side of a mounting plate 12 as seen in FIG. 8 (or mounting plate 112 as seen in FIG. 12).

Chapman does not teach or suggest how the lenses in the optical system could achieve a "non-uniform angular distribution that varies in intensity over a range of angles" as required by the independent claims. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion in *Chapman* to provide a transparent, molded body wherein opposing faces each include optics thereon. Thus, *Chapman* is deficient in that it does not disclose all of the limitations required by independent claims 1, 31 and 47 for at least these reasons. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the § 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 31 and 47 be withdrawn.

The art of record does not remedy the deficiencies of *Chapman*. In particular, U.S. Patent No. 6,273,591 ("*Albou*"), which has been applied by the Examiner in a § 103(a) rejection of claim 21, is clearly deficient. It should be noted that *Albou* was previously addressed by the applicants in the amendment filed on June 2, 2003 in response to the Office Action mailed May 4, 2003.

Albou discloses a motor vehicle indicator light comprising an intermediate screen interposed between a light source and a cover glass. (See FIG. 1.) The light source is a filament lamp, not an LED. (See col. 2, lns. 48-49.) In fact,

the purpose of the intermediate screen is to convey the illusion, when the light source is lit, that the light source comprises a plurality of individual sources, such as LEDs, all having similar intensities and remaining visible within a wide range of viewing angles. (See col. 1, lns. 47-51.) When not illuminated, the presence of the intermediate screen conveys the appearance to an observer of a multi-faceted precious stone. (See col. 5, lns. 56-61.) While Albou does disclose an intermediate screen having first and second optical structures on opposing faces, Albou in fact teaches away from the claimed invention by using a single non-LED light source in combination with the intermediate screen to give the illusion of multiple LEDs. For example, Albou states "when the observer moves in front of the indicator light, all of the secondary sources are displaced in the same way, and retain similar intensities, which tends to reinforce the above mentioned illusion." (Col. 5, lns. 52-55.) Thus, for at least these reasons, Albou teaches away from the claimed invention and does not remedy the deficiencies of Chapman. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 31 and 47 are in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 4-5, 7-8, 10, 12, 25-26, 30 and 63 depend from independent claim 1 and contain all the limitations thereof, as well as other features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-5, 7-8, 10, 12, 25-26, 30 and 63 are also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner also rejected dependent claims 2-3, 9, 11, 13-18, 21-22, 24, and 27-29 as being obvious over Chapman in view of various additional references. However, these claims also depend from independent claim 1 and contain all the limitations thereof, as well as other features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. In view of the

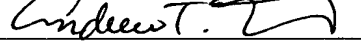
above, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 9, 11, 13-18, 21-22, 24, and 27-29 are in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: November 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Andrew T. Zidel
Registration No.: 45,256
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant